Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 JUSE-00 /153 W

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O 291149Z JUN 78 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1471 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMTN

USEEC

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR AMBASSADORS STRAUSS AND WOLFF STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: RULES OF ORIGIN FOLLOW-UP IN GENEVA

1. OUR NEGOTIATORS DEALING WITH THE KEY EFTA COUNTRIES HAVE FOLLOWED THROUGH TO DISCUSS OUR PRIORITY REQUEST TO THE EC ON RULES OF ORIGIN. WE WANTED TO UNDERLINE WITH KEY INTERESTED PARTIES THE STATEMENTS YOU MADE TO HAFERKAMP, DENIAU AND OTHERS THAT THIS IS A PRIORITY ITEM FOR THE U.S. WE ALSO SOUGHT TO CLARIFY THEIR CURRENT POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE.

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2. IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES CONTACTED (SWITZERLAND, THE NORDICS AND AUSTRIA) THEIR REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THAT THEY FAVOR ADOPTION OF THE SIMPLIFIED 50-PERCENT RULE AS HAD BEEN THEIR PRACTICE EARLIER AND AS WE REQUESTED THE EC. NORDICS REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE RAISED THIS ISSUE ALSO WITH THE EC IN RECENT CONSULTATIONS, FAVORING OUR POSITION. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES TO

AIR THEIR VIEWS AGAIN.

- 3. CLEARLY THE GREAT COMPLEXITIES OF RENEGOTIATING WIDE-SPREAD PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS AS CITED BY HAFERKAMP AND DENMAN IN WASHINGTON ARE EXAGGERATED. A STATEMENT OF INTENT BY THE EC IS ALL WE NEED TO PUT THIS DNE ON THE RIGHT TRACK TOWARD RESOLUTION.
- 4. POSTSCRIPT: MESSRS. ROCHE AND MCCORMICK AT THE ACTN SESSION ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON EMPHASIZED THAT A RESOLUTION OF THE RULES OF ORIGIN ISSUE SHOULD BE AMONG OUR TOP "FAIR TRADE" PRIORITIES. MCDONALD

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